

HOUSE No. 1006

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to the determination of distribution of state aid for education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT GIVING EQUITABLE WEIGHT TO MEDIAN INCOME AND PROPERTY VALUES IN DETERMINING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE EDUCATION AID.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Property and income, being the two main mea-
2 sures of a community's wealth or "ability to pay," shall be given
3 equitable weight in calculating the distribution of state education
4 aid as well as the current number of pupils in each municipality. A
5 formula based on only one measure of wealth will never produce a
6 fair and accurate gauge of every community's ability to pay. There
7 are unique regional demographics and economic factors in the
8 Commonwealth that make it impossible. Therefore, notwith-
9 standing the provisions of any general or special law to the con-
10 trary, it is the intention of the general court to assure fair and
11 adequate funding for public schools in the commonwealth by
12 defining a balanced standard of local funding based on median
13 income, with every community having the choice of state aid as
14 determined by Chapter 70 Section 10 or Chapter 70 Section 10A.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting the following new definition:—
3 "Local share of the foundation budget," shall be the product of
4 seventy-five percent of the municipality's foundation budget and
5 the municipality's median income per capita percentage of the
6 state-wide average median income per capita over the last three
7 years.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 70 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting the following new section:—
3 Section 10A. Subject to appropriation, each municipality shall
4 have the option of receiving state aid as defined in Section 10 or
5 the difference of its foundation budget and its “local share of the
6 foundation budget” as defined in Section 2.